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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

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Miami, Florida
July 4, 1964

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BB 7/21/93
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RE: PLAN OF CUBAN EXILE LEADERS
TO ASSASSINATE SELECTED CUBAN
GOVERNMENT LEADERS
INTERNAL SECURITY - CUBA

Details of Plan to Assassinate
Cuban Leaders

12-18-93
Classified by *9803 RDD/KSC*
Declassify on: *OADR (JFK)*

MM T-1, another Government agency which conducts security-type investigations, advised the following information was obtained from individuals who were allegedly parties to the actions described below. This information was furnished 6-18-64: *(S)*

MM T-1 stated that a Cuban exile was first approached on March 2, 1964, by an acquaintance who wished to discuss a plan to assassinate FIDEL CASTRO. This acquaintance was described as a businessman, a ship owner, who owns at least one ship which sails under the British flag. This acquaintance allegedly has some contact with elements in the underworld primarily through his partner, who is a former police officer from St. Louis and through him there is a tie-in with elements of "Cosa Nostra". Since the offer was to assassinate CASTRO for \$150,000.00, the Cuban exile first approached told acquaintance he was not interested and suggested an approach be made with someone with more money.

A second Cuban exile reported that BYRON CAMERON, owner and operator of the motor vessel "Cayman Hope", Caribe Trading

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Group 1

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- ☐ RELEASE IN FULL
☒ RELEASE IN PART
☐ TOTAL DENIAL

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RE: PLAN OF CUBAN EXILE LEADERS
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Cuba

Company, Ltd., Fort Lauderdale, Florida, met on March 3, 1964, with TEOFILO BABUN FRANCO, described as co-owner of the Antillean Marine Shipping Corporation, and two of BABUN's employees, OSCAR FERNANDEZ VEIGO and ELISEO GOMEZ-FERNANDEZ. During the conversation at this meeting, CAMERON allegedly mentioned that he was in contact with an unidentified group which would be willing to assassinate certain Cuban officials for cash. The three principal leaders, FIDEL and RAUL CASTRO and ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA were the ones named.

It was felt that the \$150,000.00 to assassinate FIDEL CASTO plus \$5000.00 expense money was too high.

Another meeting allegedly was held on March 5 and a counter offer of \$100,000.00 was made to assassinate FIDEL CASTRO.

Still another meeting was allegedly held on March 15 by CAMERON, BABUN and his associates where the following prices were agreed upon:

\$100,000.00 to kill FIDEL CASTRO

\$20,000.00 for RAUL

\$20,000.00 for "CHE" GUEVARA

plus \$2500.00 for expenses, payable in advance. Allegedly a contract was made for the payment of this money.

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In April 1964, ELISEO GOMEZ FERNANDEZ met with JOSE "PEPIN" BOSCH, and BOSCH agreed to advance \$100,000.00 and BABUN and his associates would advance the \$2500.00 for expenses. Allegedly, JULIO LOBO OLAVARRIA, a wealthy Cuban exile of New York, subsequently agreed to the terms provided his name was not involved. The last news was that CAMERON reported that his group had already called its man in Cuba and they had received information that good news was expected between May 20 and May 25, 1964. Allegedly LOBO was to fly to Miami on May 19 to arrange for the transfer of \$100,000.00 to a safety deposit box, keys to which would be held jointly by CAMERON and a person in the confidence of LOBO.

Still another Cuban exile who allegedly spoke with JOSE "PEPIN" BOSCH, reported in late May 1964, that TEOFILO BABUN and ELISEO GOMEZ had a plan underway to assassinate FIDEL CASTRO and \$50,000.00 of the \$150,000.00 required was to be paid by BOSCH.

Interview of TEOFILO BABUN SELMAN FLA
CUBA

TEOFILO BABUN SELMAN furnished the following information to Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on July 2, 1964.

He stated he is the owner-operator of the Bahama Lines and the Antillean Marine Shipping Corporation of Miami, Florida. Associates of his are ELISEO GOMEZ FERNANDEZ and CEFERINO OSCAR FERNANDEZ VEIGA, better known as OSCAR FERNANDEZ.

DOR 8/7/64 + Miami Cuba 4298 FLA
He stated that TEOFILO BABUN FRANCO is his nephew and has no connection with the shipping business and is not in

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the Miami area.

BABUN specifically denied any involvement in, or knowledge of, any plan to assassinate selected Cuban Government officials. He stated he had not paid, nor had he offered to pay any sum of money to anyone for the purpose of effecting the assassination of FIDEL CASTRO or of any other Cuban Government official. He also denied that he had been a party to any meetings with his associates and BYRON CAMERON, or with any other individuals, for the purpose of discussing ways and means to assassinate FIDEL CASTRO.

He stated BYRON CAMERON is the owner and operator of the motor vessel "Cayman Hope" which plies between Miami, Grand Cayman Island, Montego Bay, Jamaica, and British Honduras. He stated his only connection with CAMERON is to furnish him warehouse facilities for his cargo at Miami at the regular price of \$1.50 per ton. BABUN stated that as a matter of fact, even this relationship might not be continued inasmuch as a \$1.50 per ton is for cargo which is bound together in large boxes or bundles which can be handled quickly and easily, whereas the cargo of CAMERON, which consists almost entirely of groceries and foodstuffs, are in many small packages and boxes which are very time-consuming to place in and remove from the warehouse.

BABUN stated that insofar as he knows, CAMERON is not interested in any anti-CASTRO plot, but he has certainly

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never discussed any plot with CAMERON and certainly no plan to assassinate any Cuban Government leaders. He stated he never mentioned such a matter to CAMERON and CAMERON never approached him or his associates with any plan to assassinate Cuban leaders.

BABUN stated he never knew anything concerning CAMERON's personal background and associates other than those business associates directly concerned with the shipping business. BABUN stated CAMERON goes from Miami to Grand Cayman Island off the south coast of Cuba and delivers foodstuffs to an hotel at Grand Cayman Island as well as hotels in Montego Bay, Jamaica. BABUN indicated at that time that his warehouse is full of Official League baseballs and Official League softballs as well as chicken coops brought back by CAMERON from Jamaica. BABUN denied knowing anyone connected with the hoodlum element, either in the United States or elsewhere, who is sponsoring or participating in any plot to assassinate selected Cuban Government leaders. He denied knowing anyone from St. Louis, Chicago, or any other place, who has hoodlum contacts and who is in contact with BYRON CAMERON.

He is acquainted with JULIO LOBO, a wealthy former Cuban businessman who controlled better than fifty percent of the Cuban sugar interests, and who now resides in New York. During a trip to New York approximately three months ago which BABUN and his wife made to visit a member of their family, he talked with LOBO briefly at the "Sugar Exchange Building

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in downtown New York". The only discussion concerning anti-CASTRO Cuban plans had to do with the possibility of securing bases in the Dominican Republic from which anti-CASTRO activities might be carried out against the CASTRO Government. There was no mention of any plot or plan to assassinate Cuban Government officials.

He noted that over the past years since FIDEL CASTRO has come into power that at any time Cuban refugees discuss the possibility of overthrowing the CASTRO regime, there is someone who will vehemently state that it would "be a great thing if someone would kill the CASTRO brothers and other Cuban Communist leaders", but he stated that insofar as he knew, these statements had never been more than the venting of expressions of hatred for the CASTRO regime and he had never met a man with any specific plan to actually put into effect an assassination plot.

Interview of ELISEO GOMEZ FERNANDEZ

ELISEO GOMEZ FERNANDEZ was interviewed by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation separately, and immediately following the interview of TEOFILO BABUN SELMAN, at which time he furnished the following information:

GOMEZ stated he is an associate of TEOFILO BABUN SELMAN in the operation of the above-named Antillean Marine Shipping Corporation at Miami, and is an associate of CEFERINO OSCAR FERNANDEZ VEIGA. GOMEZ specifically denied involvement or participation in any plan to assassinate selected Cuban Government officials and

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denied knowledge of the existence of any such plan. He admitted knowing BYRON CAMERON and admitted handling the warehouse operations in Miami for CAMERON who owns and operates the motor vessel "Cayman Hope". He indicated the same route described above, on a map on his office wall of the "Cayman Hope" and the ports at which it calls. He likewise indicated, and voluntarily showed interviewing Special Agents, that a good portion of his warehouse was at that time occupied with large boxes containing Official League baseballs, Official League softballs and empty chicken crates made in Jamaica. He likewise indicated that the warehousing and handling of the groceries and foodstuffs for CAMERON are unsatisfactory inasmuch as the payment of \$1.50 per ton is not sufficient to cover the labor cost involved in handling so many small loose packages and boxes and the company has agreed to advise CAMERON that further shipments will be handled at \$2.50 per ton rather than \$1.50 per ton.

GOMEZ further denied any knowledge of any connections of CAMERON with any individuals not directly associated with the shipping business. He specifically denied knowledge of any underworld or criminal element with any interest in an assassination plot designed to eliminate FIDEL CASTRO, RAUL CASTRO or ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA. He, too, noted that at any time Cuban exiles gather to discuss the Cuban situation, and this admittedly is the main topic of conversation among all Cuban exiles, there is

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always someone who would remark that CASTRO should be killed. GOMEZ stated that he actually feels that the assassination of FIDEL CASTRO would accomplish nothing towards actually ridding Cuba of a Communist regime. He denied paying any sum of money, agreeing to pay any sum of money, or being approached for the payment of any sum of money for the assassination of Cuban Government leaders.

GOMEZ advised that he, BABUN, and FERNANDEZ were friends of JOSE "PEPIN" BOSCH and have talked with him on several occasions and at such time a discussion of the general Cuban situation was part of the conversation. GOMEZ specifically denied being present when any sum of money was asked of BOSCH or at any time when BOSCH agreed to pay any money for any plan having to do with the assassination of Cuban Government leaders.

GOMEZ stated that although he has heard of JULIO LOBO, a wealthy former Cuban businessman with interests in the sugar industry, he does not know LOBO personally and has not been in contact with him.

Interview of CEFERINO OSCAR FERNANDEZ VEIGA

FERNANDEZ VEIGA was interviewed separately from the above individuals by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on July 2, 1964, at which time he furnished the following information:

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His full correct name is as set forth above and he is more commonly referred to as OSCAR FERNANDEZ. His home address is 4298 West 6th Avenue, Hialeah, Florida. He was formerly in the lumber and iron business in Havana and was born in Havana, Cuba, August 7, 1926. He is now an associate of BABUN SELMAN and GOMEZ FERNANDEZ, described above.

FERNANDEZ VEIGA also specifically denied paying any sum of money to any person for the purpose of effecting the assassination of any Cuban Government officials. He denied knowledge of any plot to effect such assassination and denied approaching any person for the purpose of soliciting any funds for the formulation or carrying out of any such plan. He also indicated that in his opinion, while the assassination of FIDEL CASTRO might bring personal joy to many Cuban exiles whose immediate relatives may have been tortured or killed by CASTRO and his regime, it would actually accomplish nothing towards the overthrow of the Communist regime of FIDEL CASTRO in Cuba. He admitted knowing BYRON CAMERON and the warehouse relationship with him. He denied knowing anything concerning the personal background of CAMERON, did not know his place of origin or birth, and denied knowing that CAMERON has any partner or associate with any contacts with elements of the underworld. He stated he knew of no plans and had attended no meeting where any plan was discussed by BABUN SELMAN, GOMEZ FERNANDEZ, BYRON

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CAMERON, or other individuals which involved the assassination of FIDEL CASTRO, RAUL CASTRO, ERNESTO "CHE" GUEVARA, or other leaders. He denied being a party to any discussion and stated he knew of no discussion concerning the payment of any sum of money for the assassination of such Government officials.

He stated he knows, like practically every Cuban in Cuba knows, JULIO LOBO because he was a gigantic financial figure in Cuba but stated he had never been at any meeting with LOBO where any amount of cash was discussed as payment for the assassination of any Cuban Government leader.

FERNANDEZ VEIGA stated it is common belief that CAMERON has some partner or associate but he does not know him personally and does not, in fact, know that CAMERON has a partner or associate.

He also admitted knowing JOSE "PEPIN" BOSCH but stated he had never discussed with BOSCH any plan to assassinate Cuban Government leaders and had never been present at any meeting where such a plan was discussed.

Sources familiar with numerous phases of anti-CASTRO activities were contacted on July 2 and 3, 1964, but had no knowledge of any plan to assassinate Cuban Government leaders. Each source indicated that there is never any discussion among any considerable number of Cuban exiles without someone expressing a desire to kill FIDEL CASTRO, or commenting on what great pleasure the news of his

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death would bring to those who have been victims of his persecution. However, no source knew of any with the possibility, means, or sufficient willingness to sacrifice their own lives in order to carry out such a plot.

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